

hold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse to judgment." It was the day of the Lord when his Angel slew Sennacherib's army and scattered all the corpses of that great host over the face of the earth. Again, with reference to Christ's coming to John the explanation is easy, and is furnished by the Evangelists, Matthew, Mark and Luke. Christ having signified to Peter by what death he (Peter) should glorify God, Peter was led to enquire concerning John. He saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, if I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me. In the first place it is not said that John lived till Christ's coming—the language is hypothetical; but we know that John did live till after the destruction of Jerusalem and the inauguration of the present dispensation. But in this case what our Saviour said in reference to others will apply also to John, and shows how it is to be taken. Matthew xvi. 28,—“Verily I say unto you, there be some standing here which shall not taste of death till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom. We read that he spake these words to his disciples; but it matters not whether John were present or not, or referred to or not. The principal is all the same. The language here refers no doubt to the destruction of Jerusalem and the manifestation of the Kingdom of Christ by the annihilation of the Jewish polity.—But this by no means exhausts the meaning but was a type and earnest of the final coming of Christ and of the destruction of the wicked; this language does not refer to Christ's ultimate and glorious coming, for this was hidden from himself as man. Alford says “Our Lord in his humanity in the flesh did not know the day and the hour, and that not knowing it he should have uttered a determinate and solemn prophecy of it, is impossible.” Mark ix., 1, “And he said unto them, verily I say unto you, that there be some of them that stand here which shall not taste of death till they have seen the Kingdom of God come with power. Luke ix., 27—But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here which shall not taste of death till they see the Kingdom of God; which latter passages clearly denote the manifestation of Christ's Kingdom. The reference is to the establishment and progress in the life time of some then present of that new Kingdom of Christ which was destined to work the greatest of all changes, and be the grand pledge of his final coming in glory. There are also some passages that can only be explained satisfactorily by this principle.

In the above explanation we have referred to a principle which must not be overlooked in interpreting prophecy. This principle is that one prophecy often contains within its bosom reference to another prophecy that meets its complete fulfilment in the distant future, and receives a partial fulfilment in the near or